

**Huntingdon
Borough Council**

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Sanitary Inspector

Year 1952



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ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1952
by

M. M. MARKHAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my second Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

Your obedient servant,
M. M. MARKHAM.

Staff

Medical Officer of Health:
M. M. MARKHAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Sanitary Inspector:
E. J. SAUNDERS, M.I.Mun.E., A.R.San.I.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area	2,151 acres
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1952	1,519
Rateable value of the district	£35,116
Value of a Penny Rate	£140 12s. 6d.
Estimated population (Mid 1951)	5,220
Estimated population (Mid 1952)	5,327

Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total		
Legitimate	37	30	67	Birth rate per 1,000	
Illegitimate	2	4	6	estimated population	13·7
				(Ditto for England	
Total	39	34	73	and Wales)	15·3
STILL BIRTHS					
Legitimate	1	1	2	Rate per 1,000 esti-	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	mated population	0·38
				(Ditto for England	
Total	1	1	2	and Wales)	0·35

DEATHS (all ages)	60	48	108	Death rate per 1,000 estimated population (Ditto for England and Wales)	20.3 11.3
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DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	1	—	1

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

All infants per 1,000 live births	13.7
(Ditto for England and Wales)	27.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	14.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—

Causes of Death (Registrar-General's List)

List No.	Cause	Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3.	Syphilitic	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	1
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16.	Diabetes	3	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	6
18.	Coronary disease, angina	6	2
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	—
20.	Other heart disease	12	14
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	4
22.	Influenza	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	1	1
24.	Bronchitis	1	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	1	2

28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	....	....	....	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	....	....	....	1	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	....	....	....	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	....	....	....	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	....	....	....	6	7
33.	Motor vehicle accidents....	....	....	....	1	—
34.	All other accidents	....	....	....	1	—
35.	Suicide	....	....	....	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	....	....	....	—	—
Totals all causes					60	48

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following laboratory facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the Area:—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road,
Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst (S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.),
Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 2097.

(b) AMBULANCE SERVICES.

- (i) Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service run in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders.

(Tel. Huntingdon 348).

- (ii) An ambulance stationed at the Huntingdon Isolation Hospital has been available for cases of infectious diseases.

(Tel. Huntingdon 59).

(c) HOME NURSING.

A Nurse/Midwife residing at Godmanchester (Tel. Huntingdon 609) employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out home nursing and attended maternity cases in the Borough.

(d) CLINICS—*See over.*

(i) The following health services are provided by the Huntingdon County Council.

Clinics.	Patients seen.	When held.	Where held.
MINOR AILMENTS.	Schoolchildren.	Every Monday, 9.30 to 10.30 a.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
INFANT WELFARE.	Children (0-5 years).	Every Tuesday, 2 to 4 p.m.	do.
DENTAL.	Pre-School and Schoolchildren Pre-natal and Nursing Mothers.	Every Wed. (except 2nd in month) & every Sat. 10 a.m.—12 noon (by appointment).	10, Princes Street, Huntingdon.

(ii) The following Health Services, now the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, are administered on an agency basis by the Huntingdon County Council:

OPHTHALMIC.	Pre-School and Schoolchildren.	1st & 3rd Fridays in the month. (By appoint- ment except in emer- gency) 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon, 2 to 4 p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
ORTHOPAEDIC.	Pre-School and Schoolchildren.	2nd & 4th Tuesdays in month (<i>Surgeons by ap- pointment</i>) 10 a.m. to 12 noon.	do.

(iii) The following Health Services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board:

CHEST.	All ages.	Every Thursday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
VENEREAL DISEASES.	All cases.	Mondays 3 to 7 p.m. Wed. 4 to 6 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patients Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigations.

(e) HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Fever. Huntingdon Isolation Hospital provides facilities for the investigation and treatment of infectious diseases.

General Hospital Services are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases can be admitted to Paxton Park Maternity Home, St. Neots. Admissions are arranged through the County Medical Officer.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

					Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	..	....	..	...	6
Whooping Cough	....	....	..	....	1
Diphtheria	....	....	....	....	—
Measles	....	....	....	..	4
Acute Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	....	....	....	....	—
Typhoid Fever	....	....	....	....	—
Erysipelas	....	....	....	....	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	....	....	....		—
Chicken Pox	....	....	....	....	21

Diphtheria Immunisation Table x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x

Tuberculosis

Total Number on Register at 31st December, 1952:

Pulmonary 29 Non-Pulmonary ... 5

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Res.		Respiratory		Non-Res.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1		1						
5				1				
10								
15 ..								
20 ...	1	1						
25 ..	4	1						
35 ...	2							
45								
55 ...								1
65 and upwards								
Totals	7	3	—	1	—	—	—	1

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

Public Mortuary

A Mortuary is provided in Priory Road, fully equipped.

Water Supply

From July to September the yield from the Gathering Ground was insufficient.

There is an urgent need for the Scheme of augmenting the town's supply. The Scheme awaits the sanction of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to proceed.

Rainfall for the year 1952 was 20·23 inches, which is below the average. Rainfall for 1951 was 27·23 inches.

Samples of water are sent regularly to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Cambridge.

The town water is treated by chlorination, and the analyses proved satisfactory throughout the year.

In the extreme northern part of the town, where there is no piped supply, 8 houses situated in Sapley are supplied with water by mobile tanks.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The Council have again pressed their claims for final approval of the joint scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for the Boroughs of Huntingdon and Godmanchester. The Ministry of Health Inquiry relating to this Scheme was held in July, 1949.

Collection and Disposal of House Refuse

Collections of House Refuse are made once per week from dwelling houses, and at least twice per week from trade premises.

The refuse is destroyed by means of an Incinerator situated well away from the town, and partly by controlled tipping to fill up land on the Hartford Road Fields, which are to be used for recreational purposes in the future.

Inspection

During the year I have made several inspections of the District, accompanied by your Sanitary Inspector.

Nuisance Inspection is embodied in the Sanitary Officer's Report, vide page 10.

Housing

The Council's housing scheme in American Lane was continued and up to the end of the year 4 houses had been completed and tenanted.

The Council now owns 319 houses which is 21% of the estimated total number of houses in the Borough. This number includes the two Toll Bar cottages, Nos. 51 and 53, Hartford Road.

Four houses were built by private owners during the year.

Inspections of dwelling houses have been made and notices served for those houses which were found to require attention.

1. *Inspections of Dwelling-houses during the year.*

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Act, 1936)	28
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	31
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
	(b)	Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	15

Lodging Houses

There are no registered Lodging Houses in the Borough.

Shops Act, 1934

During the year inspections have been made of shops occupied in the Borough, and conditions were found to be of a satisfactory nature.

Factories

The undermentioned factories are operating in the Borough: Chivers & Sons, Canning; Amplion, Ltd., Wireless; Acoustical Manufacturing Co., Loud Speaker Equipment; Oriental Confectionery Co.; P. & H. Engineering Co.; Silent Channel Co.; East Anglian Breweries Ltd.; Fen Potteries.

Schools

The schools are kept clean and are well ventilated, and were not closed during the year for epidemic disease. They are adequately provided with water and sanitary services.

Bye-Laws and Regulations

The Council have Bye-Laws relating to new streets and buildings, and regulations relating to house drainage and water supply.

M. M. MARKHAM,

*Medical Officer of Health,
Huntingdon Borough Council.*

HUNTINGDON.

October, 1953.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1952

Total No. Inspections made during 1952	...	...	122
„ „ Notices Served (Informal)	....	....	30
Complaints received	....	Total Number of	41
Premises, Houses, etc. (under Sec. 92 P.H. Act, 1936)		No. inspected	37
Animals improperly kept	....	Nuisances abated	26
Drain, urinal, cesspool	....	No. inspected	—
Smoke nuisances	....	Nuisances abated	—
Offensive accumulations	....	No. inspected	29
Other Sanitary conditions	....	Nuisances abated	29
Slaughter houses and Shops	....	No. of observations	8
Offensive trades (Section 112 Public Health Act, 1875)	....	Nuisances abated	—
		No. of inspections	—
		Nuisances abated	—
		No. inspected	—
		Nuisances abated	—
		No. licensed or registered	3
		No. of inspections	6
		No. established	—
		No. of inspections	—
		Houses affected with Tuberculosis	—
		Houses inspected	—
		No. of inspections	—
		Houses disinfected	6
		Schools disinfected	—
		Disinfectant used	—
		Prince Regent	—
		Lots of clothing disinfected	—
		„ „ destroyed	—
Water Closets	....	New provided	8
		No. supplied with water	8
		Samples taken for Analysis	83
		Samples condemned	—
		Wells closed	—
Water Supply	....	Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.	—
		Public supply substituted for well or pond	—
		Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered	—
Building Bye-Laws adopted	....		—
Total legal proceedings, i.e., Summonses, etc.			—
Convictions			—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Factories	..	Total number on register	
		including bakehouses	86
		No. in which nuisance abated	1
Bakehouses	..	No. on register	3
		No. of outworkers	120
		No. of houses	120
		No. of infected houses	—
Legal Proceedings, i.e., Summonses, etc.			—
Convictions			—

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—This is controlled by the Milk Marketing Board. Dairies and Cowsheds are regularly inspected, and any defects corrected where required by the owners under the 1926 Order. There are 10 Cowkeepers registered in the Borough.

(b) MEAT.—Meat is under the control of the Meat Marketing Board. All cattle have been slaughtered at St. Ives under this Scheme. The three slaughter houses in the Borough are used occasionally only for killing pigs.

(c) ADULTERATION OF FOOD.—Food inspection and Sampling is carried out by County Weights and Food and Veterinary Inspectors.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.—This is dealt with by the County Weights and Food and Veterinary Inspectors.

Notices requesting persons not to take dogs into premises in which food is sold were distributed to shopkeepers.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders

Cowkeepers Registered	10
Producers	10
Producer Retailers	2
Retailers (only)	2
Dairies	2
No. of inspections of Premises	12
No. of Inspections during milking time	6
No. of Premises requiring Whitewashing, Cleansing, etc.	—
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	1
No. of Premises requiring Structural or Sanitary Improvements	—
Have regulations been adopted	Yes

Cowsheds with Well Water Supply—

No. of	1
No. of from which water analysed	—
Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk	
Butter and Cheese Makers—	
No. in District	—
No. Inspections of Premises	—

E. J. SAUNDERS,
Sanitary Inspector.

M. M. MARKHAM,
Medical Officer of Health.



